

ONTARIO COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



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PSAC ONTARIO

Our Charter Rights are Under Attack

The federal government's latest budget implementation Bill C-59 is trying to legislate away our members' right to free collective bargaining. Division 20 of Bill C-59 proposes to give the government the authority to unilaterally change the sick leave provisions of PSAC's Treasury Board collective agreements, and impose a short and long term disability plan.

This threat to our members' sick leave has a much more chilling impact. By circumventing the bargaining process through legislation, the rights and freedoms of every Canadian is being threatened.

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that collective bargaining is part of our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A government that doesn't respect these rights has no legitimacy in a democracy. On October 19th make your voice heard by exercising your democratic right to vote for change.



Canadian
Charter of
Rights and
Freedoms

Don't let Harper destroy it
before our eyes.
On October 19th
VOTE for CHANGE!!



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Sarnia Rally Against Bill C-59

On June 2, 2015, members of CIU Local 19 rallied at Conservative MP Pat Davidson's office to protest Bill C-59 and stand up for our Charter rights. They were joined by CIU Brothers and Sisters from Windsor and Ft. Erie and Sarnia Labour allies UNIFOR, CUPE, PSAC 501, SEIU, OPSEU and Sarnia-Lambton NDP Candidate and CIU member, Jason McMichael.





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Our Sick Leave and For-Profit Insurance Companies



Federal Public Service

As a federal public service worker I have seen first-hand the level of dedication and professionalism within the federal public sector. Many of us come in early and stay late to finish projects and help out our clients.

With departmental budget cuts and the resulting layoffs and increased workloads; I've seen these same workers struggling to manage with ever-increasing stress and anxiety. The health effects are now clearly visible of what has become a toxic work environment for most in the federal public sector.

This Conservative government continues to advocate for changes to make our working lives worse, not better. This includes handing over our sick leave administration to an insurance company. Insurance companies are there to make money, just like any private business. The easiest way for an insurance company to do this is to deny benefits.

I'm sure I'm not alone in the many stories I have heard from family and friends having to fight with private insurance companies for compensation. Is this the direction we want to go in? Struggling with an insurance company while sick, just to ensure that we are compensated? I for one don't, and I hope PSAC members across the province agree by electing a new government in the next federal election.

Trevis Carey, Ontario Council Northeastern Representative

What Kind of Canada do We Want to Live In?

What do we do when we have a government that wants to disassemble the programs and services that Canadians have fought to have?

The Conservative government says it cares about veterans, while at the same time closing 9 Veterans Affairs Canada offices. The government says it cares about families, yet it won't create a universal child-care system. They say they want to create jobs, but then send pink slips to over 20,000 of their own workers.

Who do they really care about? Well from the government's policies, it doesn't seem like they care about the average Canadian. For example all those tax breaks being promised in the recent budget are primarily for wealthy families, paid for by the rest of us through our taxes.

Recently, in Alberta, we saw change take place. After four decades of Conservative rule, the people of Alberta rose up in the loudest way possible and an NDP majority government was brought in. If Alberta, a long standing stronghold for this federal government can choose change, then the rest of this country can as well. There is hope when we stand together, and on October 19th let's vote for change.



Missy Taylor, Regional Women's Committees Representative



This Government's Priority is Advertising



Since the Conservatives came to power their advertising budget, which was fixed at \$41.3 million in 2006, has more than doubled every year since. This ad spending continues even as the government inflicts sweeping cuts to programs and services.

To date, a half billion dollars has been spent to promote their agenda instead of putting funds towards improved health care, education, social programs and child care.

All Canadians pay the price of weaker environmental protections and cuts to public services. The real winners are wealthier Canadians who receive specialized tax rate breaks. The losers are the middle class and lower income families who can't afford to do without accessible public services.

Corporate tax cuts have resulted in the worst income inequality since the 1930's. In this prosperous country we have a million Canadians (40% are children) using food banks. Clean, running water is taken for granted by the majority, yet it is a luxury for many First Nations communities.

Is this the hallmark of a modern society? If the government truly cares about the health and welfare of all of its citizens they should put much needed funds towards helping them, instead of telling everyone what a great job they are doing.



John Ivison: TV ad for federal family tax benefits like a Tory press release come to life

National Post, November 17, 2014

David Carr, Ontario Council GLBT Representative

Summer Pride Events

Show your PRIDE at the upcoming summer events!

JUNE

- Kingston Pride**, June 11 - 14
- Timmins Pride**, June 5 - 14
- Barrie Pride**, June 6 - 13
- Thunder Pride**, June 7 - 14
- Hamilton Pride**, June 15 - 21
- Grey Bruce Pride**, June 12 - 14
- York Pride**, June 13 - 21
- Brantford Pride**, June 15 - 21
- Gananoque Pride**, June 20 - 22
- Pride Toronto**, June 19 - 28

JULY

- Belleville Pride**, July 4
- Sudbury Pride**, July 19 - 26
- Muskoka Pride**, July 17 - 26
- Peel Pride**, July 23
- Brockville Pride Walk**, July 18
- Pride London**, July 17 - 26
- Simcoe County Pride**, July 30 - August 8

AUGUST

- Windsor-Essex Pride**, August 7 - 9
- Capital Pride**, August 14 - 23

Chatham-Kent Pride, August 21 - 23

SEPTEMBER

Peterborough Pride, September 12 - 19



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This Spot Is...

PSAC Ontario Council created this newsletter in 2012 for members; to keep you apprised of issues and encourage member participation. But we are only 21 of the 30,000 PSAC members in Ontario.

PSAC Ontario members come from many different walks of life, with a rich diversity and experiences that add to our union's strength.

To help share our unique stories, we want to hear from you!

This spot in every upcoming issue of our Ontario Council newsletter will be reserved for an article submitted by a member.

Report on an event your members held, report on something that's happening in your workplace, comment on an issue of importance to you and share it with us.

We only ask that the article you provide be respectful and be no longer than 250 words.

Please send your submission to Lino Vieira at VieiraL@psac.com. Pictures welcome also!

Spring School 2015

On June 4 to 7, 2015, PSAC members from across Ontario gathered at the Ivey Spencer Learning Centre in London to participate in our Spring School. The courses offered this session were Advanced Duty to Accommodate, Advanced Human Rights Activism, Advanced Representation for Stewards and Advanced Anti-harassment and Bullying. As always participants enjoyed the learning experience, great food and connecting with other members.



Above: Barb Byers, CLC Secretary-Treasurer, brings greetings and words of encouragement to the Opening Ceremonies.



Right: Participants raise their hands in a show of Solidarity!!